



Headmistress' Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 22nd April 2024

Dear Parents,

Before Easter, all of the children in Years 2 to 8 performed a poem of their choice, in front of their peers and teachers. The following children performed brilliantly and have been recorded in the Radio Room for our upcoming Poetry Podcast. Well done!

Year 2 Niamh B, Zahra A, Elliot L & Meva C

Year 3 Ethan B, Joss W, Alfie M-R & Jack C-W

Year 4 Grace M, Harrison G, Belle P and Bobby M

Year 5 Brooke B, Isaac W, Felix S & Florence P

Year 6 Iona H-F, Cameron M, Eva VW-R & Oliver Y

Year 7 Amelia W, Cecilia G, Freddie A & Sophia I

Year 8 Isaac M, Arun N, Daisie K, Emily S & Darcie C

☆ Stars of the Week ☆

1G – Yuvan M; 1W – Sibylla S; 2C – Lottie F; 2J – Hallie H; 3B – George J-E; 3W – Sam P; 5F – Alfie T; 5L – Thea S
6L – Jack E; 6S – Georgia L; 7D – Cecilia G; 7M – Alice P; 8B – Harry B; 8S – Alisha C
Year 4 are on their residential to Conover Hall.

Congratulations to **Hawks** who are this week's winning Pack.

On Monday, Winterfold, along with thousands of schools around the world, celebrated [Earth Day](#). As part of this, the children have been invited to submit up to two photographs that they have taken for our Natural World Photographer of the Year competition. This mirrors a competition run by the Geographical Association for older pupils. Our theme this year is 'Our Wonderful World'. If they wish to enter, photographs should be emailed to Mr Cotterill rcotterill@winterfoldhouse.co.uk by Friday 3rd May. They should also give each entry a title. Highly commended photographs will go on display in School and winners from each year group will be announced before half term.

After an intense week of rehearsals, the **Year 7 & 8 pupils** performed **Mary Poppins Jnr** last Friday at Cobham Theatre, Bromsgrove to an audience of over 400 people. The children have been preparing this show in their Drama lessons and Tuesday activity time throughout the year. All pupils took part in the final performance, alternating between a main role and ensemble over the two performances. Some students also took on the additional responsibility of stage management and effectively orchestrated many set changes.



Our pupils worked well together to transport us back to the Edwardian era, sporting wonderful costumes to depict the age. Layla B and Freya C were wonderfully composed as the magical nanny Mary tasked with bringing the boisterous children, Jane and Michael, back into line. James B, Dominic A, Alice J and Amelia W gave energetic performances as the children and captured their sense of fun perfectly. As Mary took the children on a range of magical adventures, she was assisted by her friend Bert, played by Boe G and Ollie H - the perfect Cockney chimney sweeps who had the audience tapping their toes during the encore of 'Step in Time'.



There were too many fantastic individual performances to name them all; Mrs Stark and Mrs Richardson were brimming with pride at the end of the evening. It was particularly wonderful to see so many pupils taking on a lead role for the first time and doing so with confidence. It is hoped that these children will now have the 'performing bug' and we will see them front and centre, on our new Penryn stage. For our Year 8 leavers, we hope that they will continue with their performance work at their senior schools and remember "in a most delightful way" the fun they had creating this "practically perfect" show. In the words of Mary Poppins herself, it was all "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"!



Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic residential visit down to Hooke Court in Dorset this week. The children were incredibly excited to arrive in Lyme Regis and hear from Alan who is an authority on the geology, beaches and history of this fascinating place. Later that evening they enjoyed by a nature night walk and saw wild deer, as well as having the time to listen to all sorts of other wildlife. Tuesday saw all the children take part in a World War II Day and they became evacuees experiencing what life was like for children so long ago, including an air raid and cooking food from rations using recipes from the 1940s. They had the opportunity to fight fires using stirrup pumps and had fun squirting each other as well! Their evening meal was in the style of a VE Day celebration feast and later they enjoyed some wartime parlour games to finish off the day. Wednesday saw the children engaging in actual rocket science; designing their own rocket and launching it using a real gunpowder fuse. The children and staff learned so much in just three days; faced challenges and became resilient and confident away from home by immersing themselves fully into the residential experience. A really valuable and memorable trip enjoyed by all.



The **U13 A girls** played Prestfelde and showed a good knowledge of the game, fielded well and managed to take 4 wickets from runouts and catches. A brave innings in bat with some risky runs meant they managed to produce a win in the second to last ball of the game. The **U13 C girls'** team had a good start to the cricket season, playing away against Prestfelde where they enjoyed a very close and exciting game, and a well-deserved victory. The **Year 6 girls** also had a promising start to the season with their first fixture against Kings Hawford. The girls showed some improving ball handling and bowling skills and potential for the rest of the season. The **U9/8 girls** played at King's Hawford, scoring 58 runs with the loss of just one wicket in the first half. In reply, the King's girls batted well but lost two wickets for a total of 54 runs, giving us a very close victory of just 4 runs.



On Wednesday, our **1st XI and U11 boys** were in action for the first time this season. A combination of rehearsals and wet weather has meant the senior boys have had very little practice time, so it was a bonus to get a match with Packwood. Winterfold scored a total of 68 runs and in reply, Packwood played well to overhaul our total. The **U11 teams** went to King's Hawford and played an Incrediball due to damp pitch conditions. The teams worked hard in difficult conditions and will look to improve their accuracy with the ball for next week's matches.

Children in **Year 2** have explored instruction writing this week and made salt dough, which they turned into a dragon claw pendants. They have been rehearsing for their French showcase with Mrs Richardson, and they are very excited to perform to their families. In Mathematics, children have begun working on 'Position and Direction' and linked this to their map skills in Geography. **Year 1** pupils have been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. In English, the children

created their own alien characters to meet the 'Man on the Moon' and in Science, they investigated moving body parts, looking at joints and muscles. In History, the children delved into Britain's past, with Saint George and the dragon and Queen Elizabeth I fuelling their imaginations.

Reception class had a wonderful trip to Stratford this week to visit the Butterfly Farm and the MAD museum. The children were enthralled by the butterflies landing on them and they listened carefully when taught about what butterflies like to eat. The children said their favourite activities at the MAD museum were the 'marble run' and the 'clapping machine'. A fun day was had by all. Children in **Kindergarten 2** have had a wonderful week exploring under the sea. The children went on a submarine journey and enjoyed learning about a wide range of under the sea creatures, using pearls and shells to complete simple addition sums. They enjoyed the story 'Rainbow Fish' and painted the sea to the sound of the waves. In **Kindergarten 1**, the children listened to the story 'Little Hector's Big Idea', which incorporates the ideas behind this year's Earth Day theme. They worked collaboratively to paint a large Earth using their hands, and a dolphin from the story. Children explored different ways to move around an obstacle course pretending they were fish swimming in the ocean.



In the **Nursery** this week, the Ducklings and Goslings have been looking at aeroplanes, hot air balloons and helicopters, and enjoyed participating in a range of creative activities, creating their own air transport. They have explored a messy glitter tray and have been on lots of walks around the School grounds, enjoying the dry, sunny weather. Meanwhile, the Cygnets enjoyed their story 'The Snow Storm' and sang 'The Sun Has Got His Hat On'. They made a large hand-painted rainbow for the window and explored the School grounds whilst talking about the weather.



Pupils in Year 5-8 are invited to represent Winterfold at the West Midlands Schools' Orienteering Championships on Saturday 11th May. Please email Mr Cotterill rcotterill@winterfoldhouse.co.uk if you are interested in taking part.

Finally, a reminder that children in **Years 6-8** are invited to watch the *Life of Pi* at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham on Thursday 13th June at 7.30pm. Please complete the online form [here](#) if you are interested.

Best wishes,

Denise Toms
Headmistress